

STONETON
Betterton, Maryland
(ca 1890-95)

K-446

The late 1880's and 1890's were a hard time for farmers in Kent County. There were many foreclosures and not many farmers had the capital to improve or expand their buildings. As a result, there were few houses built in the late Victorian Style. Those constructed were simple and utilitarian with a minimum of decorative detail.

The house on Stoneton Farm is one of the few dwellings remaining from this period. It resembles the old house on Fair Promise Farm (K-423) but is simpler. In a modest way, the cross-plan and use of projecting window bays reflect the irregularity of massing so popular at that time, but decorative wooden detailing is minimal.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAMEHISTORIC STONETON (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Peppercorn Farm**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

½ mile east of Betterton

CITY, TOWN

Betterton

VICINITY OF

1st

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. T. Sergeant PepperTelephone #: 301-348-2113

STREET & NUMBER

Stoneton

CITY, TOWN

Betterton

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21610**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court HouseLiber #: EHP 88EHP106Folio #: 13994

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-446

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Peppercorn Farmhouse is located on a hill facing southwest with a distant view of the Sassafras River to the north. In addition to the main house there is a small tenant house, described below, barns and other farm buildings. The house is reached via a 1½ mile road which runs through farmlands. The front lawn has rows of mature locust and maple trees flanking the house.

The building is frame. Two and one half stories tall, the building is an assymetrical cross (→) in plan with the arms of the cross finished in two story octagonal bay windows. A one-story, hip-roofed porch runs on the three long sides of the building; it has turned posts and a plain balustrade. The roof is intersecting gables with the attic gables sided with octagon-butt shingles and lit with round-headed 2 over 2 sash windows. There are gable dormers in the long sides of the roof slope. They too have two over two sash windows, overhanging eaves, and decorative dormer faces. The roof edge is finished with a cornice and return; a cyma recta and fillet is used as the crown molding. In the corners above the bays are pierced-work brackets.

Two over two sash in plain frames are used throughout the house (except where replaced by modern windows.) There are louvered shutters at most windows.

The main entry has a four pane transom and two-pane side lights, filled with plain colored glass. The double entry doors have chamfered exterior panels and molded interior panels, two per door.

The building is sided with beveled weatherboarding, painted white. Trim is ochre; shutters are dark red. The foundation is brick; asphalt shingles cover the roof.

The interior of the building is laid out on either side of a central stair hall with the kitchen forming the head of the cross. Interior walls and ceilings are plaster and the flooring is narrow oak. Doors have four panels with chamfered edges; there is

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-446

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1890-95

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The late 1880's and 1890's were a hard time for farmers in Kent County. There were many foreclosures and not many farmers had the capital to improve or expand their buildings. As a result, there were few houses built in the late Victorian Style. Those constructed were simple and utilitarian with a minimum of decorative detail.

This building is one of the houses remaining from this period. It resembles the 'd house on Fair Promise Farm (K-423) but is simpler. In a modest way, the cross-plan and use of projecting window bays **reflect** the irregularity of massing so popular at that time, but decorative wooden detailing is minimal.

The building was constructed by the Price Family who owned the farm for many years.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

K-446

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

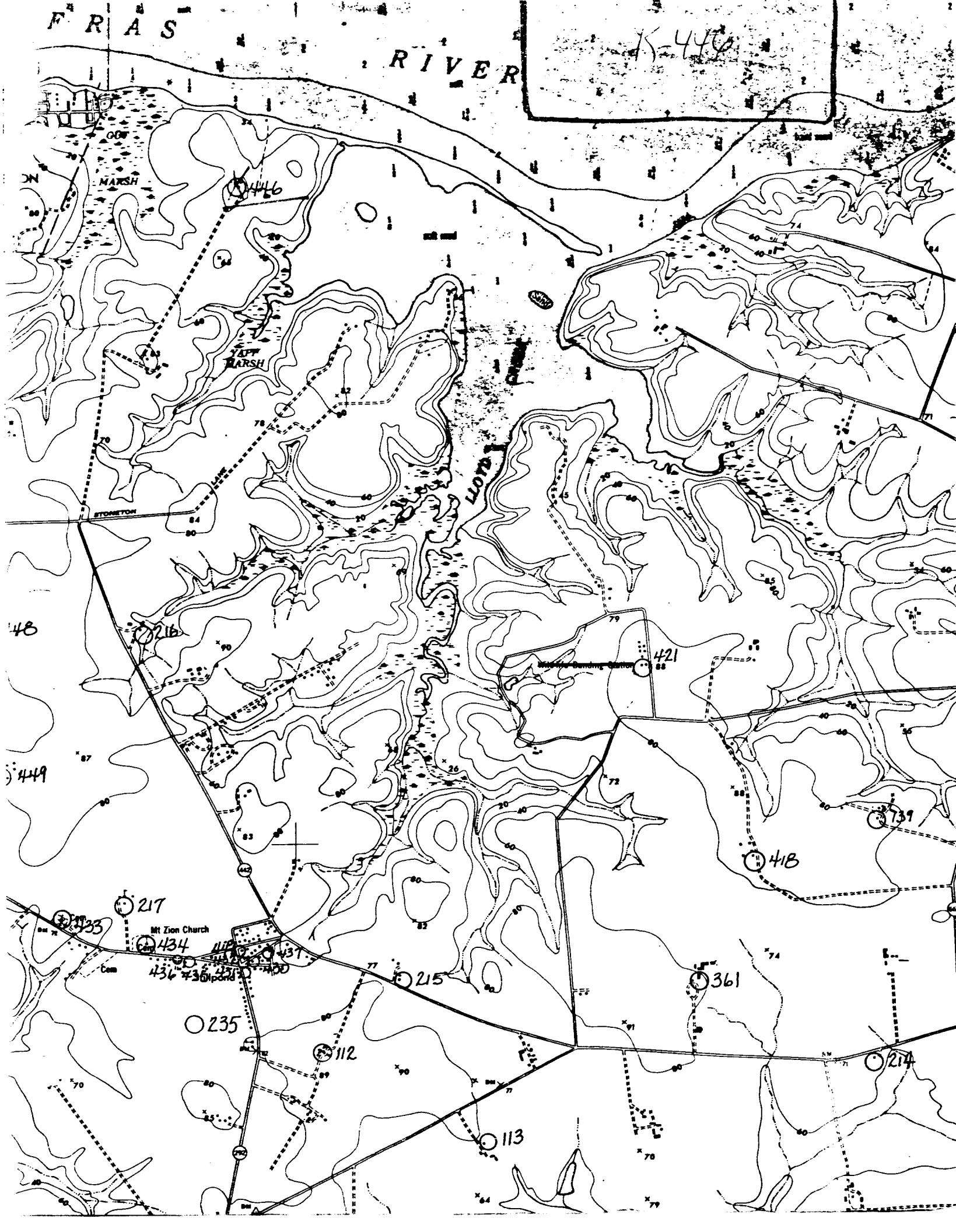
pair of door leading to a long hall on the second floor. Trim is reeded and remaining mantles are slate. The stair has a square reeded oak newel, turned balusters, and decorative step brackets; open to the attic, it is a **dog-leg** shape.

The tenant house on the property is two stories tall, three bays wide, and one bay deep. It rests on brick piers and has a gable roof with overhanging eaves. An earlier off-center chimney once served four fireplaces. The L-shaped stair runs behind the chimney mass. Although the house has been greatly altered through the years, it has some interior trim, stair and mantles with late Federal (ca 1810-20) detailing. The moldings have very small beads combined with Greek ogee profiles and split fascia. There is an eight panel door and a six panel door, and a turned stair newel.

The main house is well maintained and used as a summer home. The tenant house is currently being restored.

F R A S
R I V E R

45-440





K-446

Stoneton

View to North

Betterton

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

8/1980



K-446

Stoneton

View to East

Tenant House

Betterton

Kent County

M. L. Fritz

8/1980